

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In an application server communicatively coupled to a layer-2 gateway device, the layer-2 gateway device and a user device having established therebetween a communications session that supports a first quality of service level, a method for managing the communications session established between the layer-2 gateway device and the user device, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:
the application server receiving a request ~~forwarded by the layer-2 gateway device~~ that originated from the user device;
wherein the request is a request for a particular application service provided by the application server; ~~and~~
wherein the request is not an express a request to change the quality of service level supported by the communications session;
wherein the request does not specify a desired quality of service level for the communications session;
in response to receiving the request, the application server determining based upon the request for the particular application service and policy criteria, a second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session; ~~and~~
the application server sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session;
wherein the step of sending a message causes the layer-2 gateway device to make a layer-2 change in a communications link used for the communications session so that the communications session supports the second quality of service level instead of the first quality of service level; ~~and~~
~~receiving an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.~~
2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device causes a modification of session context data maintained by the layer-2 gateway device and associated with the communications session.
4. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
sending to the layer-2 gateway device an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Change of Authorization (CoA) message that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level.
5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the first and second quality of service levels each specifies an amount of bandwidth to be allocated to the user device.
6. (Previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the user device is a wireless device.
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently amended) An application server capable of being communicatively coupled to a layer-2 gateway device, the layer 2 gateway device and a user device having established therebetween a communications session that supports a first quality of service level, the application server being configured to:
receive a request forwarded by the layer-2 gateway device that originated from the user device;
wherein the request is a request for a particular application service provided by the application server;
wherein the request is and not a an express request to change the quality of service level supported by the communications session;
wherein the request does not specify a desired quality of service level for the communications session;

in response to receiving the request, determine based upon the request for the service and policy criteria, a second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session; and

send a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session thereby causing the layer-2 gateway device to make a layer-2 change in a communications link used for the communications session so that the communications session supports the second quality of service level instead of the first quality of service level; and

~~receive an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.~~

9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the application server is further configured to send a message to the layer 2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level thereby causing the layer-2 gateway device to modify session context data maintained by the ~~at a~~ layer-2 gateway device and associated with the communications session.
11. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the application server apparatus is further configured to generate and send to the layer-2 gateway device an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Change of Authorization (CoA) message that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level.
12. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the first and second quality of service levels each specifies an amount of bandwidth to be allocated to the user device.
13. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 8, wherein the user device is a wireless device.

14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently amended) An application server capable of being communicatively coupled to a layer-2 gateway device, the layer-2 gateway device and a user device having established therebetween a communications session that supports a first quality of service level, the application server comprising:
means for receiving a request forwarded by the layer-2 gateway device that originated from the user device;
wherein the request is a request for a particular application service provided by the application server;
~~wherein the request is~~ and not a ~~an express~~ request to change the quality of service level supported by the communications session;
wherein the request does not specify a desired quality of service level for the communications session;
means, operable in response to receiving the request, for determining based upon the request for the particular application service and policy criteria, a second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session;
means for sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level to be supported by the communications session; and
wherein the means for sending a message is operable to cause the layer-2 device gateway to make a layer-2 change in a communications link used for the communications session so that the communications session supports the second quality of service level instead of the first quality of service level; ~~and~~
~~means for receiving an acknowledgement from the layer 2 gateway device that indicates that a layer 2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.~~
16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 15, wherein the means for sending a message further comprises means for sending a message to the layer-2 gateway device that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level thereby causing the layer-2 gateway device to modify session context data maintained by the layer-2 gateway device and associated with the communications session.
18. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 15, wherein the application server further comprises means for generating and sending to the layer-2 gateway an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting Change of Authorization (CoA) message that specifies a quality of service profile for the second quality of service level.
19. (Previously presented) The application server as recited in Claim 18, wherein the application server further comprises means for specifying the quality of service profile for the second quality of service level using a vendor-specific attribute containing the 3rd Generation Partnership Project 3GPP-Negotiated-QoS attribute.
20. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the first and second quality of service levels each specifies an amount of bandwidth to be allocated to the user device.
21. (Previously presented) The apparatus as recited in Claim 15, wherein the user device is a wireless device.
22. (Canceled)
23. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.

24. (New) The application server of claim 8, further configured to:
receive an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates that a layer-2
change was made in a communications link used for the communications session.
25. (New) The application server of claim 15, further comprising:
means for receiving an acknowledgement from the layer-2 gateway device that indicates
that a layer-2 change was made in a communications link used for the
communications session.